

**Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee**  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

**Minutes**  
November 1, 2002

The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center on Friday, November 1, 2002 from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m.

1. Members present. Robert R. Aylsworth; W. Timothy Crowley, Stephen R. Heimann; James R. Heuer, Lynn Murray, James W. Payne, Daniel L. Pflum, R. Paulette Stagg; Frank Sullivan, Jr., and Stephen M. Sims, Chair
2. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting on June 20, 2002 were approved.
3. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz and Anne Jordan provided the committee with staff assistance.
4. Governor's Commission on Juvenile Law.
  - a. Justice Sullivan reported the nominations of Chief Justice Shepard to the Governor's Commission on Juvenile Law created by Executive Order were Justice Robert D. Rucker and Judge James W. Payne. It is expected the Commission will be appointed soon.
  - b. Mr. Bercovitz distributed responses to a survey of problem areas to be addressed by the Commission from the Juvenile Court Judges Conference in Brown County. The committee agreed to discuss the themes in the surveys at the next meeting.
5. Court Improvement Program (CIP). Justice Sullivan reported the Supreme Court of Indiana receives federal monies under the CIP program to improve the court processing of abuse and neglect cases. He reported the following grants this year: JTAC: \$50,000 to interface with Quest; Family Court Pilot Program – Porter County: \$35,000 and Putnam County: \$10,000; and reserves for multi-year commitments and other areas if needed.
6. Juvenile Reentry Court. Judge Sims reported he and Marion County are working with the Indiana Department of Correction (DOC) to begin a juvenile reentry court through a grant from them. It includes the court reasserting jurisdiction over the child and parental participation in the treatment plan before the child's release.
7. Department of Correction. Mr. Bercovitz distributed a letter from Judge Payne concerning DOC's new case classification program and a letter sent to all courts in September about their case management system. The members of the committee agreed to invite DOC representatives to the February meeting to discuss these new programs.
8. Juvenile Law Services Report.
  - a. Mr. Bercovitz distributed selected portions of the Juvenile Law Services Report from 2000 and 2001. The committee members agreed to revise the demographic profile to match the one used by ICWIS and expand the "Other" category of reimbursements. Committee members agreed to invite ICWIS representatives to discuss what information is available to judges at their next meeting.

b. Committee members expressed concern about the accuracy of the data contained in this report. Judge Payne agreed to contact Ms. Lilia Judson about the committee sending an email to all courts recommending they check the accuracy of the numbers reported. Judge Sims and Judge Heimann agreed to send a letter via email about the importance of reporting accurate dollar figures on the costs of services to children with the reported numbers from previous years to check.

9. Title IV-E Interagency Protocol Agreement. Judge Payne reported 11 counties have not signed the Title IV-E Interagency Protocol Agreement. He agreed to call the juvenile court judge in those counties to encourage their signature.

10. Travel of wards. Mr. Bercovitz distributed a letter from Judge Morton concerning the travel of wards outside Indiana. Committee members agreed travel of this nature should be approved by the juvenile court. Judge Payne agreed to forward a copy of a petition and order he uses in this area to members of the committee.

11. Juvenile history reporting. Mr. Bercovitz reported that the statute requiring reporting of juvenile history information is planning to be recodified from Title 5 to Title 10. Committee members agreed to share this reporting requirement with juvenile courts statewide after finding out who is supposed to report this information to the State Police. Judge Payne agreed to find out how this is reported in Marion County and share his county's forms with the committee members.

12. State Advisory Group. Mr. Bercovitz distributed materials about the Indiana Criminal Justice State Advisory Group for juvenile grants. Judge Sims moved Mr. Bercovitz join this group. Judge Crowley seconded the motion. The motion was passed. They also agreed to recommend Judge Bruce Embrey, and Judges Payne and Nardi if Judge Embrey is unable or unwilling to serve.

13. Other. Judge Payne distributed various materials to committee members, including the Civil Rights of Children Committee, Indiana State Bar Association's position to the Governor's Juvenile Law Study Commission.

14. Next meeting dates. The committee members agreed to meet on January 3, 2003; February 7, 2003; March 7, 2003; May 2, 2003 and June 6, 2003 all on Friday from 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center. Mr. Bercovitz also noted it was no longer necessary to save November 21 for an ISBA juvenile law conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law